

SCHOOL DISTRICT TAX HIKE LOOMS



The Largest Circulating Newspaper between Los Angeles and Long Beach

TORRANCE PRESS

10c

1406 CRAVENS AVE. — FA 8-2345

VOL: IX

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1958

No. 66

Job Rise Seen by March



SEARCH FOR JOBS—Mrs. Winona Ellis, right, manager of the Torrance office of the Department of Employment, looks at stack of applications for unemployment benefits handed her by Sandra Gish. Mrs. Ellis predicts that if this

year follows previous records, unemployment will reach its peak late this month and employment opportunities will pick up again in the middle of March.

—Press Photo

Unemployment to Hit Peak Late This Month

Unemployment will reach its worst point sometime late this month and the change for the better can be expected in the middle of next month.

That was the prediction of Mrs. Winona Ellis, manager of the Torrance office of the State Department of Employment.

She bases her views on past years when the jobless situation was always more serious in January and February because of layoffs in the construction industry.

Layoffs Short

Mrs. Ellis said that while the number of claims for jobless benefits took a sharp upturn in January, the period of unemployment of individuals was not too long.

"The crowd is not going down but the faces change," she said.

Most of the unemployment in this area was caused by layoffs in the airframe industry and its allied fields, she said.

The average number of weekly claims during last month was 3891. This compares with only 844 for January, 1957, Mrs. Ellis revealed.

She pointed out that the job losses did not necessarily occur in Torrance because many residents of this city hold jobs in Los Angeles, Long Beach and El Segundo.

Not Torrance Jobs

"This doesn't mean that all the unemployed were laid off in this area," she explained.

The Torrance office serves persons who reside in Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City, Gardena, and the beach cities.

"Some of the aircraft plants which have laid off workers are now calling them back," she observed.

Approximately one-third of the claims are filed by women. Of the men filing for benefits which range as high as \$40 a week, 40 per cent are veterans.

Bigger Population

Mrs. Ellis, who has managed the local office since July 1, 1947, said while the claims during the past few months have been heavier than in previous years, it must be remembered that the population has increased vastly.

She said that her office serves a population estimated at 260,000. Under a formula she has

(Continued on Page 2)



OUT OF ORBIT—Fred Averell and his cat, "Mickey," gaze at mystery object which landed in his front yard Thursday. The object, which

may have dropped out of the sky, resembles over size Christmas tree decoration and weighs between three and four pounds. —Press Photo

Council Balks at Sandblast Work

City officials will scrutinize its contract with the builder of the Victor E. Benstead swimming pool before they fork out \$1800 to sandblast the plunge.

The appropriation was asked by the public works department which said that cracks have appeared in the pool lining.

Councilmen said that the contractor who built the pool had guaranteed the job and should do the repair work himself.

Action on the sandblasting job was held up until the city officials re-read the contract.

Competitive Bus Denied by City

A request to operate a deluxe coach between the Torrance Municipal Airport and the Los Angeles Coliseum by a private bus company, was defeated by the City Council in a 3 to 2 vote.

"We'll be in competition with ourselves," said Councilman Nicholas O. Draie in referring to the Torrance Municipal Bus Line.

Mystery Object On Lawn of Harbor City Residence

A mystery object that was found on the front lawn of Fred Averell, 1620 248th street, Harbor City, has set police, the army and Averell himself to thinking of outer space.

The strange object, a silver ball, the size of a basketball, and attached to a nozzle, was partially buried underground when Averell's wife, Mattie discovered it.

"I can't figure out what it is. And neither can the police nor the Army men they sent out here from Fort MacArthur," Averell, a foundry worker, said.

The mystery object looks like a large Christmas tree ornament. But it weighs between three and four pounds and is made of a mirror-like material.

The mystery deepened when police attempted to force the nozzle back into the ground to determine if someone could have placed it there.

But the experiment concluded that it could have dropped down from the air, since it was impossible to push it into the earth without breaking it, Averell said.

The absence of footprints in the soft ground also tended to absolve pranksters from having buried it.

New Moon Is Here

Elmer S. (Red) Moon, Torrance director of athletics, has joined the satellite race.

His daughter-in-law, Mrs. Bill Moon, of 2910 El Dorado, launched a seven-pound, four-ounce moonlet, Marcia Gwen, Tuesday at Torrance Memorial Hospital.

All the various Moons, male and female, are reported doing well.

Unions Support Isen, Fleetwood, Thompson in Vote

A slate of candidates for city and State offices, today had the endorsement of the Central Labor Council of the American Federation of Labor.

The labor council backed incumbent Mayor Albert Isen for reelection and threw its support behind J. E. Thompson and Thirvin D. Fleetwood for seats on the Torrance City Council.

The council also endorsed Congressman Cecil R. King and Assemblyman Vincent Thomas for reelection and gave support for another term to Municipal Judge John A. Shidler.

All officers of AFL unions will meet Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. at 602 Broad St., Wilmington, for the purpose of acquainting themselves with initiative measures and political developments.

Runs Signal, Gets Two Days in Jail

A Hermosa Beach man drew a two-day jail sentence after a jury in Torrance Municipal Judge John A. Shidler's court found him guilty of running a signal.

Sentenced to the county jail was David Gary Fero, 21, of 1244 Seventh place, Hermosa Beach. He was accused of running a signal at Western avenue and Sepulveda boulevard.

Court attaches said the defendant has committed eight moving traffic violations in the South Bay district in the past year.

Completes Army Course

Army Pvt. Glen D. Christensen, son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Christensen, 22332 Evalyn avenue, Torrance, Calif., recently was graduated from the eight-week amphibious truck driver course at Fort Story, Va.

He entered the Army in July 1957 and was last stationed at Fort Ard, Calif.

The 18-year-old soldier attended Torrance High School.

Rising Costs to Cause Deficit Deficit Next Year

A school tax increase appears very likely next fiscal year, S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent of the Torrance Unified School District, predicted today.

He based his statement on early estimates of the costs of operating the "city" schools in the year starting in September.

Tax increases can amount from a little less than 10 cents to approximately 23 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Early Estimates

Waldrip emphasized that he is basing his prediction on estimates and that more definite figures will not be available until the tentative budget is prepared next month.

The educator said that current cost estimates of operating the school system next year is \$8,192,401. This will leave a deficit of \$334,000.

This can be cut down to \$135,000 if Congress extends an act under which cities in defense areas received federal support. Torrance's financial assistance from federal funds was \$200,000 during the past year.

Doubts Aid

But Waldrip cast strong personal doubts on chances for continuance of the federal grant.

"School legislation hasn't had a chance since the integration question came up. The racial issue has been tied as a rider to the bills," he opined.

If the support from federal sources is cut off at the end of this school year, the tax rate may be hiked by as much as 23 cents above the current rate of 2.87 per \$100 assessed valuation. This figure includes operational expenses as well as bond redemption funds.

High School Costs

Another financial squeeze on the school budget is the fact that education costs go up as students enter high school, Waldrip noted.

He said that according to state-wide figures, it costs \$250 a year for an elementary pupil compared with \$400 for a high school student.

This hits the local school system directly in the pocketbook since more and more students attain high school age.

As an example, the educator said, last year there were 1250 eighth graders. This year there are 1342. By 1960 there will be 1693 eighth graders ready to enter high school.

More Enrollment

Further future increases in high school enrollment is indicated by the size of the present kindergarten class in which 2800 pupils are registered. This compares with 500 high school seniors.

Waldrip pointed out that eventually the kindergarteners will come of high school age and facilities must be provided to educate them.

The Board of Education has already approved a resolution asking Congress to continue the federal aid.

Curtail Program

If the money is not granted, the Torrance district has the option of raising taxes, curtailing its program or seek additional state funds.

Waldrip said he estimates only a moderate increase in assessed valuation by next school year.

Another factor that may drive up costs of running the schools is if the district is forced to grant salary hikes to compete with other districts.

Petitions are now being circulated for a second try to pass a \$3,000,000 bond issue for park and recreation development.

If sufficient signatures are obtained, the proposition will be submitted to another vote in the April 8 municipal election.

Funds will be used to purchase sites and also to pay for development of recreation areas throughout Torrance.

The issue was defeated at a special election last October, when it came right on the heels of a dispute between the City Council and the Park and Recreation Commission over the amount of the bond issue.

Three commissioners resigned shortly before the election.

Proponents of park and recreation development claim that land for the creation of new parks is vitally needed in keeping with the rapid growth of the city.

They point out that land values increase steadily and purchases of property should be made as soon as possible.

Red Cross Blood Bank Quota Is 250 Pints

Lone Bandit Gets \$170 in Store Stickup

A lone, pock-marked bandit got away with \$170 after he robbed a liquor store at 1954 West Carson street Thursday night.

Corrado Pirrotta, the victim, told police the man entered with a paper bag covering his gun. He tossed the bag on the counter and rasped:

"Give me the money. I'm not fooling; I'll blow your head off."

When Pirrotta handed over the cash in the till, the robber stripped him of his wallet and ordered him into the backroom while he made his get-away in a car he had left idling on the street.

The victim said the bandit wore steel-rimmed glasses and was about 30 years old. He wore a red plaid shirt and long hair.

450-lb. Safe Lifted From Vegas Airways

Thieves, tabbed by Torrance detectives as "rank amateurs," are being sought for the theft of a 450-pound office safe from Vegas Airways, 2751 Pacific Coast Highway.

Police said that the burglars pried open a door, broke a cigarette and soft drink machine before they apparently thought of attacking the safe, which contained \$1000 in cash and payroll checks.

The thieves knocked off the dial and knob from the strong box in the office. When they failed to open it that way, they loaded it onto a vehicle and cleared out.

5 Days in Jail

Even though a jury found him not guilty of a drunk driving charge Thursday, Chester Charles Gaines, 26, of 4617 West 169th street, Torrance, did not walk out of Judge John A. Shidler's court as a free man.

As soon as his trial ended, he was served with two old traffic warrants for speeding and driving without a license and a hit and run driving charge. The defendant was sentenced to five days in the county jail after he pleaded guilty to the added charges.

The Red Cross mobile blood bank will be stationed at the Torrance Civic Auditorium on Thursday, Feb. 13, to collect its quota of 250 pints of life-saving fluid.

The bank is sponsored by a group of civic-minded individuals who will underwrite the financial cost of bringing the blood unit here, according to Don C. Moshos, M. D., chairman of the Torrance-Lomita Red Cross fund campaign which opens on March 1.

The donors will subscribe the cost, estimated at approximately \$1300. Dr. Moshos pointed out that it costs more than \$5.50 to process and collect a pint of blood.

The bloodmobile will be stationed at the Civic Auditorium from 3 to 7:30 p. m.

Sponsors of the blood bank are Jack Saylen, John Beeman, M. D., Donald Findley, Albert Isen, John Nursakk, M.D., and Mrs. Boris Woolley, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Fleker, Allen Klatsker, Judge John A. Shidler, Rosemary De Camp.

"There is more and more blood needed and I am grateful to these civic-spirited people who are willing to sponsor the blood bank," declared Dr. Moshos.

Moshos Heads R. C. Drive

Torrance's 1958 Expanded Red Cross Fund appeal, slated to get under way next month, will be directed by Dr. Don Moshos, of 1617 Cravens avenue.

Announcement of Dr. Moshos' appointment to this community's top Red Cross fund post was made this week by Jack Cunningham, chairman of the Southern Region's forthcoming campaign.

Active Leader
Chairman of the local Red Cross branch for the past two years, Dr. Moshos assumes the fund chairmanship for the first time, following several years of active fund work in various capacities. He is also actively affiliated with the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club.

In the course of stepping into his new Red Cross role, Dr. Moshos cited "expanded needs for Red Cross service" as the reason for pursuing expanded funds for the organization.

No Goal Set
"Torrance's goal has not yet

(Continued on Page 2)

New Signs Will Bring Safety

Motorists using Artesia boulevard (174th street) will soon be able to have enough advance warning of major cross streets to enable them to make safe lane changes for turning onto intersecting streets, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced today.

Over-sized street name signs will be placed in the center dividing strip in advance of all major signalized intersections between Alameda street and Hawthorne boulevard so that cross streets can be easily identified by motorists.

Recently Supervisor Hahn noted the lack of sufficient identification on cross streets and noted that the small street signs on corners did not give motorists enough advance warning to make safe lane changes at cross streets.

Since Artesia boulevard is a state highway, Hahn urged Edward T. Telford, assistant state highway engineer, to install the signs for the benefit of the motoring public.

"The present situation is confusing, especially to motorists not familiar with Artesia boulevard," he stated.

Following an investigation of the problem, Telford wrote Supervisor Hahn that the signs had been approved and that "installation orders are now being processed and these signs will be installed as soon as possible."

3-Year-Old Girl Hit in Auto Accident

Three persons, including a three-year-old girl, were injured in traffic accidents, Torrance police reported.

The girl, Kelly Owens, of 2729 Grand Summit, was cut on the head and knocked unconscious when she was struck by an auto at Grand Summit Road and Portobello.

Driver of the car, identified by police as Bertha Flossie Patty, 64, of 2763 Portobello, was not held. The little girl was taken to Harbor General Hospital.

Both drivers in a rear-end collision at Hawthorne and Lomita boulevards refused medical treatment following the collision.

Officers identified them as James William Padgett Jr., 38, of 3741 Palos Verdes drive, Rolling Hills, and Charles Joseph Christl, 40, of 216 Palos Verdes boulevard, Torrance.



IMPROVEMENT CHECK—County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn (left) presents \$20,000 county check to Torrance Mayor Albert Isen to be used in widening and improving Prairie avenue between 174th and 182nd streets. Hahn secured the money out of gas tax funds allocated to his district to assist Torrance in modernizing this segment of Prairie on the basis

that the improvement would be of general county interest. Supervisor Hahn pointed out that it would also provide better traffic safety for children attending the Perry and Edison elementary schools and North High School. The contract for the project has been awarded and utility lines are being moved out of the way for construction work.